Be safe on the water!

Rivers are ever-changing dynamic systems with inherent dangers. Here are some safety tips and river ethics to help you enjoy your time on the water.

State and federal laws require paddlers to have:

- A personal flotation device for each person
- An efficient sound-signaling device (an approved whistle would suffice)
- A white-light source visible from 360 degrees if paddling in reduced visibility or from sunset to sunrise

Recommended Safety Tips

- Never paddle alone
- Always file a "float plan": tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to return
- · Check weather forecasts
- Carry a map of the stream or chart of the bay so you can find your location at any time
- Carry a cell phone or a handheld VHF radio in coastal areas
- Carry a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) unit
- Wear protective footgear and carry drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent
- Plan your trip so that your paddling skills are equal to the water conditions

Conservation

- Get to know your local stream by learning about its watershed, riparian zone, and native vegetation.
- Conserving riparian areas is important, as these areas filter pollutants and protect against flooding and erosion.
- When paddling, be sure to take a bag to hold your trash for proper disposal when you leave the river. Visit Leave No Trace (www.lnt.org) for more information.
- Share the water; when approaching anglers or other paddlers, give them a wide berth and proceed quietly so as not to interfere with their recreation.



- It's your river keep it clean
- Stow it, don't throw it
- Alcohol and boats don't mix
- Respect private property rights
- Take a safe boating course

For information on other outdoor opportunities:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.: (800) 792-1112

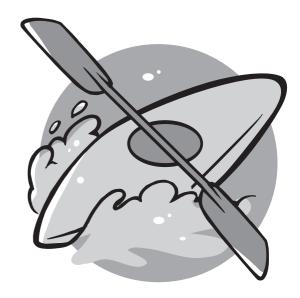
To make reservations at a state park:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Central Reservation Center: (512) 389-8900



Life's better outside.

Canoeing and Kayaking





4200 Smith School Road Austin, Texas 78744

In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

© 2009 TPWD PWD BR K0700-0096 (9/09) Printed on recycled paper.

Why Canoe or Kayak?

Canoeing and kayaking offer a more personal way to connect with nature. The quiet of being out on the water allows paddlers to experience a closer view of wildlife and scenery, drop a line and go fishing, or just relax. By traveling along river corridors, around lakes, or through bays and bayous, paddlers see nature from a new viewpoint. Learn more about canoeing and kayaking with the information below, and start your next paddling adventure soon!

WHERE TO GO



Texas Paddling Trails

Texas Paddling Trails offer you a brandnew perspective on the world. Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails to find information on canoe and kayak

trails throughout the state.

Web site includes maps, rental contacts, safety tips, wildlife and fishing information, trail length and approximate float time for each paddling trail. Information is added as new trails are launched, so please check regularly for the most up-to-date listings.

Paddling Clubs

Alamo City Rivermen San Antonio

www.alamocityrivermen.org

Big Thicket Voyageurs Canoe & Kayak Club Southeast Texas

www.geocities.com/btvcanoe

Dallas Downriver Club

Dallas - Fort Worth Metroplex www.down-river.com

Galveston Bay Eco-Paddle Association

Galveston Bay and surrounding communities www.ecopaddle.org

Hill Country Paddlers

Central Texas www.quintanna.com/mtnsports/hcpaddlers/

Houston Association of Sea Kayakers

Houston www.hask.org

Houston Canoe Club

Houston

www.houstoncanoeclub.org

North Texas River Runners

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex www.river-runners.org

Paddling Anglers in Canoes & Kayaks

Houston

www.packtx.org

More Information and Organizations

Texas River Guide

Online Texas river information clearinghouse www.tpwd.state.tx.us/riverguide

American Canoe Association

www.americancanoe.org

Texas Canoe Racing Association

http://txcanoeracing.org/tcra1/

Texas Rivers Protection Association

www.txrivers.org

Texas River Recreation Association

http://world.std.com/~reichert/canoeTX.htm

United States Canoe Association

www.uscanoe.com/



Get free e-mail updates on outdoor news, activities and promotions from Texas Parks and Wildlife, delivered right to your mailbox!

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/email